

DRAFT – DO NOT QUOTE OR CITE

Q&A's for Bayview Hunters Pt Mtg - Press

Q. I'm from the press, and I have questions.

A. This is a public meeting and therefore open to anyone to attend. The purpose of this meeting, however, is to hear from community residents about their technical assistance needs. Out of respect for the participants who came here for that purpose, we'd like to make sure that we hear from community residents tonight. Tomorrow morning, please call our Press Officer Suzanne Skadowski, and she'll be happy to set up a time when we can focus on your questions.

Q. I want to videotape this meeting

A. The purpose of this meeting is to hear from community residents about their technical assistance needs. Out of respect for the participants who came here for that purpose, I'd like to ask them if they feel comfortable being on camera. If they agree, then you can videotape.

Q. Tetra Tech contractors falsified radiation data. How can you trust anything they tell you?

A. Tetra Tech managers and staff have taken a number of actions to address the situation. They have reviewed 70,000 samples going back to 2005 to look for any signs of similar problems. Where they saw potential issues, they resampled. They have put in new procedures to prevent this problem from happening again. For example, they have retrained staff and increased scrutiny in the field.

Q. How can we trust that the cleanup is protective?

A. Cleanup decisions are only being made using the data that has been either reviewed or resampled. In addition, two independent methods of monitoring radiation are in place. The State Department of Public Health takes the Navy's samples and takes confirmation samples and uses its independent laboratory to test radiation samples to confirm the protectiveness of the cleanup. In addition, trucks go through a radiation screening portal before they can leave the Base. If the levels of radiation are high enough to trigger an alarm, then they must go back.

Q. Didn't Tetra Tech send radioactive soil to the wrong landfill in Pittsburgh?

A. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission oversees the licensing of radiation cleanup service providers. It inspected Hunters Point last spring and this summer to review Tetra Tech's practices. The NRC inspector did not find concerns regarding soil shipped to an inappropriate facility. [Need to work with NRC on the best language to use]

Q. Will EPA punish Tetra Tech and the Navy?

A. As you can see from the public Tetra Tech investigation report, Tetra Tech has already fired 3 employees and docked a month's pay from two supervisors. EPA's focus is on compliance and making sure that the cleanup is protective. Based on our review of the report, Tetra Tech is taking effective action to make sure this problem does not happen again. We are asking some more followup questions still evaluating the situation.

Q. Since we can't trust these contractors, have they let through radioactive dust contaminating our neighborhood?

A. EPA and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District inspectors are monitoring dust and truck traffic across the board, not just radioactive waste. The Navy has recently implemented new protections to better control dust and to ensure trucks carrying any materials are covered.

Q. Will EPA fire Tetra Tech? Why did Tetra Tech get this contract again? Isn't that rewarding bad behavior?

A. Tetra Tech is a contractor for the Navy, which has its own contracting process. This includes an evaluation process. I suggest that you contact the Navy directly to address this internal procedure.